NEWS

Eversource asked to step up on Cross St.

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

December 13, 2023 . 9:37 PM — 2 min read

By Tara Hughes

December 12, 2023

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On Monday the Select Board went after Eversource for safety violations and other problems with their Cross St. underground transmission line project. The meeting agenda was amended on an emergency basis due to ongoing safety issues. Prior to announcing the agenda item, issues were raised by resident Laura Conti during public comment. She urged the Board "to shut down the Eversource 345 construction project on Cross Street for the season due to numerous safety violations." Conti's main concerns are the continued blocking of sidewalks and intersections by construction related vehicles and illegal parking within 20 feet of intersections. She indicated that she has sent ten emails since July regarding safety violations but "nothing has changed." She told the board that "the project's lack of regard for public safety is unacceptable and opens the town up to liability."

The Board generally agreed with Conti, though the Eversource project was allowed to continue, due to the fact it is nearing completion. However, its continuation is conditioned on the requirements that certain specific plans be put in place, safety violations dealt with immediately, and that regular communications must be made to the town manager and DPW.

Board member John Fallon warned, "We are out of patience." DPW Director Robert LaBossiere said that in his 30 years in construction he'd never seen a more poorly managed job, with no high level Eversource employee watching over it. Board member Michelle Prior pointed out they had discussed this two weeks ago and then about 48 hours later they got photos of a violation. But they were assured by the contractor that this time the concerns are being taken seriously. A stand down meeting (stopping all work) on safety had already occurred on Monday letting workers know that these violations were unacceptable. The Board was told that violators' vehicles would be towed if necessary to enforce safety. Board chair Rich Mucci again warned, "We are at our breaking point."

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In addition, Mucci noted that they had gotten town counsel involved. During a meeting with town counsel, it was indicated that some conduct may rise to the level of breach of contract. At a minimum Eversource may be out of compliance with the timeline in the contract and it appears no amendment or extension was sought. Counsel will look into any potential violations and actions that could be taken on behalf of the town.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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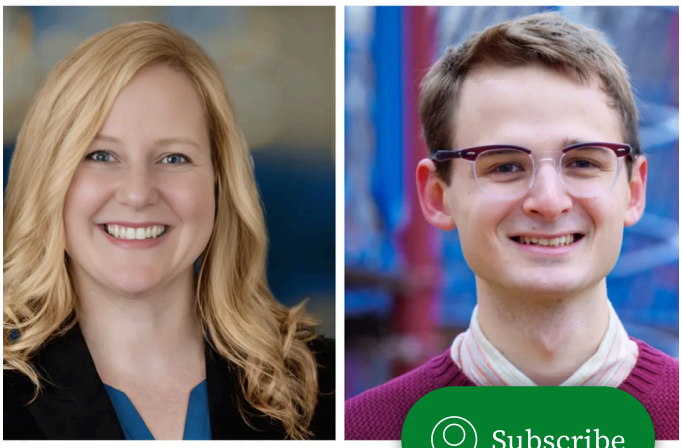

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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